

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 30, 2003. Applicants undersigned representatives wish to thank Examiners Nam Nguyen and Son Dinh for the courteous and helpful interview conducted on August 7, 2003. Claims 1-41 and 53-59 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 42-52 have been amended. Claims 60 and 61 have been added. Claims 42-52, 60 and 61 are now pending in this case.

Claims 1-27 and 42-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) as being anticipated by Lowrey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,014). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Claims 1-27 and 54-58 have been canceled and therefore this rejection is no longer applicable.

Amended claim 42 recites a method of operating a programmable conductor memory device, comprising "rewriting the binary value stored only in the one of said first and second programmable conductor memory elements which is storing a low resistance state." Nowhere does Lowrey teach or suggest this unique feature of the invention. At least for this reason, claim 42 is allowable over Lowrey.

Claims 43-52 depend from claim 42 and are also allowable over Lowrey at least for the reason mentioned above and also because Lowrey fails to teach or suggest their respective inventive combinations.

Claims 28 and 29-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lowrey and the general knowledge in the art. Claims 28 and 29-41 have been canceled and therefore the rejection is no longer applicable.

Newly added claim 60 depends from claim 42 and further recites “increasing a voltage level of a rowline coupled to said one programmable conductor memory from approximately ground level to approximately a system voltage level during operation of a sense amplifier circuit used in performing said act of determining.” Nowhere does Lowrey, taken alone or in combination with the general knowledge in the art, teach or suggest this unique aspect of the invention.

Newly added claim 61 recites “maintaining a voltage level of a wordline coupled to each of said first and second programmable conductor memory elements at approximately ground during activation of a sense amplifier used to perform said act of determining.” Nowhere does Lowrey, taken alone or in combination with the general knowledge in the art, teach or suggest this unique aspect of the invention.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application (with claims 42-52, 60 and 61) to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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